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*Makers of America: General Oglethorpe.* By HENRY BRUCE. 297 pp.—*George Calvert and Cecilius Calvert, Barons Baltimore.* By WILLIAM HAND BROWNE. 181 pp.—*Alexander Hamilton.* By WILLIAM GRAHAM SUMNER, LL.D. 281 pp.—New York, Dodd, Mead & Co., 1890.

The number of biographical series now in process of publication suggests the thought that the supply may be found to exceed the demand. The reader who tries to keep abreast of the rapidly growing literature on the subject of American history finds a great deal of wearisome repetition, and wishes that some co-operative plan might be devised by which enlargement of the realm of knowledge should be secured with greater economy of effort.

The first of these volumes does not call for special mention. The reason is to be found in the character of the subject rather than in the method of treatment adopted by the authors. General Oglethorpe enjoyed in his time a great reputation and did an important work, but his life presents few materials worthy of special study. Mr. Bruce has written an entertaining biography of the founder of Georgia, but in order to do so he has been forced to fill his book with accounts of the men whom Oglethorpe knew. He has given few details concerning the founding of the colony or the wars which Oglethorpe carried on with the Spaniards.

The founders of Maryland afford little better material for the art of the biographer than does the colonizer of Georgia. All that was of peculiar interest in the careers of the first Barons Baltimore was connected with the settlement and early history of Maryland. The historian of the state and editor of its *Archives* has brought together within brief space the substance of what is known about the Calverts and their work of colonization. The most important part of his book is the discussion of the policy adopted in the colony concerning religion. His conclusion is that under the Proprietors "all forms of Christianity were allowed, all Christians stood on an equal footing, and all churches, chapels and ministers were supported by voluntary contributions." A clear account is given of the disturbances caused by the Puritans during the period of the Commonwealth. Maryland's case against Claiborne and Virginia is set in its proper light.

Alexander Hamilton played his part upon a larger stage than did Oglethorpe and the Calverts, and occupies a far higher place among the makers of America. Professor Sumner has not written a biography of Hamilton or a political history of his times. Instead, he has undertaken to show "how and in what sense" he was "one of the makers of this American state." The result is a study in which the author

appears at his best. The treatment is clear, forcible and suggestive. In the first seven chapters of the book the salient features of American public life between 1765 and 1780 are described. This is done under the general heads of trade, taxation, persecution of Tories, commercial war, Continental currency, tyranny of committees and factions in Congress, and lack of discipline in the army. To my knowledge no author has made such havoc among the idols of American patriotism as Professor Sumner has made in this book. Here for the first time we have something like an adequate statement of the demoralization which existed in the colonies at the time of the revolt, and which continued long afterward. While admitting the necessity of the revolt and its commanding importance as an historical event, the author wholly discards the theory on which it was made. He throws aside the discussions which led up to it "as really unprofitable and useless." He declares that childishness was at that time the leading American trait. The tendency in each department of government was toward confusion and anarchy.

How did Hamilton stand related to this condition of public affairs? He, according to the writer, was the man "who most clearly perceived the faults and needs of the country in civil administration, union, army and finance." He attempted "to introduce energy into the administration, discipline into the army, cohesion into the union, punctuality into the finances." But he pushed his reforms "faster and farther than the temper of the people for the time being would permit," and therefore made shipwreck of his own political career, while his reforms provoked a popular revolt which resulted in their partial overthrow. These considerations furnish "the clew to the career of Alexander Hamilton."

In the opinion of the author, "the continuity of the Union was always in question" until after the second war with England. Hamilton was the leader in enforcing the idea of union long before the reality existed. This lay at the bottom of his plan for the assumption of the state debts, and furnished a motive for all his more important political acts.

As was to be expected, Professor Sumner criticizes unfavorably Hamilton's economic views, and holds that his services as a financier have been overestimated. It does not appear that Hamilton had read very much upon the subject of finance. His *Report on the Bank* is found to contain "the most vicious fallacies with regard to money and banking." Though his *Report on the Mint* was at the time a work of high merit, it cannot be said, in the opinion of the writer, to furnish arguments of value to the bimetallist of the present day. In his *Report on Manufactures* Hamilton borrowed "the traditions of the colonial system," and thus "helped to turn the current of American opinion against what, according to all the logic of the American situation, it ought

to have been." The opinion is expressed, that the best series of papers Hamilton ever wrote were those in which he expounded the Jay treaty.

Full allowance is made for the hasty, overbearing conduct of Hamilton, and for his unscrupulous partisanship. But though he and his party failed, it was because their political measures were in advance of the times. The people were not sufficiently disciplined to tolerate them. Still every step of progress which the nation has since made has been toward the ideal which the Federalists tried to realize. The Civil War has fully justified their view of what was possible.

H. L. O.

*The History of Federal and State Aid to Higher Education in the United States.* By FRANK W. BLACKMAR, Ph.D. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1890. — 8vo, xx, 323 pp.

This work, which is published by the national bureau of education as No. 161 of the Circulars of Information, and which is at the same time No. 9 of Prof. Herbert B. Adams's series of "Contributions to American Educational History," contains an historical *résumé* of all that has been done both by our national and by our state governments in the way of aiding our institutions of higher education. As the author begins in his treatment with the earliest colonial days and includes among institutions of higher education all such as style themselves "colleges" or "universities," together with schools for purely agricultural or technical instruction, his monograph is very comprehensive.

The first twenty pages of the work are devoted to a discussion of the general policy of the states (and colonies) regarding schools of superior instruction, with especial reference to their exemption from taxation; to quotations from the opinions of our early statesmen on educational matters; and to a selection of (favorable) opinions concerning the much-vexed question of a "national university." The next twenty pages give an account of the early federal land-grants, of the distribution of the surplus of 1836, of the land-grant of 1862 and other special land-grants, of the academies at West Point and Annapolis, of the several libraries and museums under federal patronage at Washington, and of the bureau of education. The remainder of the work treats in detail of the aid given by the individual states to institutions of higher education, and of the various policies which they have followed in their several solutions of the educational problem.

The first two chapters of the book are the least valuable, and contain little that cannot be found in previous government reports. The subsequent chapters (dealing with the separate states) give a carefully collected and well stated summary of facts and figures, and have evidently been compiled with much care.

WILLARD C. HUMPHREYS.